

OPEN LETTERS.

Tissa vs. Buda.

As you have considered it worth while to reprint what the learned editor of the *Journal of Botany* has to say on this subject, and as he has declined to publish a note sent him by me on the same matter, apparently because afraid of the argument therein contained, I venture to request that you give me space enough to say that my decision to take up *Tissa* rather than *Buda* was reached simply from the fact that *Tissa* stands first on the page in Adanson's "Familles des Plantes." This priority of place is certainly nearly as important to enforce as priority in time of publication; it is always easily determined, and has to be considered frequently, there being numerous cases of the duplication of species or genera by authors in the same book, and often, indeed on the same page. There must be some decision reached in such cases, and I think it will generally be admitted that the name standing first should be used. I mentioned this in my paper on *Tissa* (*Bull. Torr. Club*, xv. 125), as also the acceptance of *Buda* by Dumortier.

The editor of the *Journal* uses a weak argument, when he says that from the fact of *Buda* having once been taken up, this course should be followed. On that basis where would the law of priority come in, for which he used to contend so vigorously? If he can not find a more vulnerable spot than this for criticising what he is pleased to call "the eccentricities of the neo-American school of nomenclature" he had better refrain still longer from comment. He has been refraining for so long that we began to think him converted to a rational system of nomenclature.

Tissa was first taken up at very nearly the same time by M. Baillon and Professor Greene, independently. It is accepted in Engler and Prantl's new work, so it may be remarked that the "neo-American school" is not quite alone in this "eccentricity."

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NOTES AND NEWS.

AN INTRODUCTION to systematic botany by Professor C. E. Bessey will shortly be published by Henry Holt & Co.

DR. A. N. BERLESE, assistant at the Botanic Garden of Padova, Italy, has been made professor of botany at the Lycée Royal de Ascoli-Piceno.

THE Botanical Club at the Indianapolis meeting will have Dr. N. L. Britton, as presiding officer, and Professor Charles R. Barnes, as secretary.

PROFESSOR ED. PRILLEUX has recently received a prize of 4,000 francs from the French Academy of Sciences for a study of the diseases of cereals.

THE LIBRARY of the late Rev. M. J. Berkeley will be sold by John Wheldon 58, Great Queen street, London, E. C. A catalogue has been issued.